

Mad Science and the Arts

Page 2

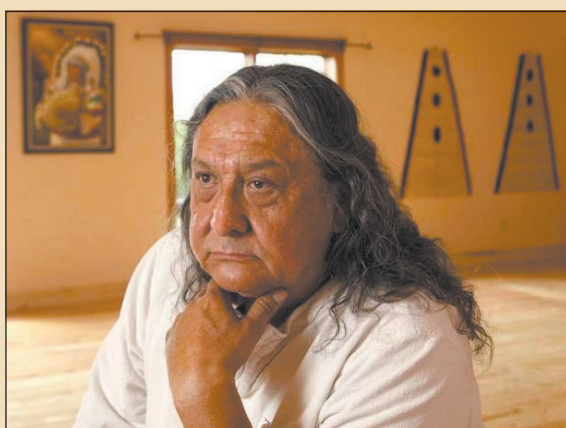


January/February 2014

Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

MONTANA ART NEWS



Darrell Robes Kipp (Photo by Larry Beckner/courtesy of Great Falls Tribune)

Darrell Robes Kipp Blackfeet author, historian leaves lasting legacy

By Scott Thompson and Briana Wipf
Reprinted with permission from the
Great Falls Tribune

Posted Nov. 23 at www.greatfalls Tribune.com

Darrell Robes Kipp, educator, author, historian, filmmaker and one of the co-founders of the Piegan Institute in Browning, died Thursday evening, Nov. 21, at Blackfeet Community Hospital, according to his son, Darren Kipp. He was 69.

Kipp had been sick for about five weeks with a recurrence of kidney cancer, said friend and co-worker Rosalyn LaPier, a faculty member of the environmental studies program at The University of Montana and board member of the Piegan Institute.

Darren Kipp remembered his father fondly Friday evening.

"I am a sad son, but I am a thankful son," he said. "I had a really good dad."

Darren Kipp was extremely close with his father, sharing a love of filmmaking. They worked on several projects together.

"A lot of guys spend time going hunting and fishing with their fathers," said Darren Kipp, a documentary filmmaker who lives on Lower St. Mary Lake. "I went to sweats, bundle openings and pipe ceremonies. That was my relationship with my father. We had a very good relationship."

[See Darrell Robes Kipp on page 5](#)

Auctions offer artful midwinter reprieve

Need an artful and colorful reprieve from winter? Three of the state's major art museums are gearing up for annual benefit auctions.

Missoula Art Museum

The Missoula Art Museum's 42nd Annual Benefit Art Auction and Exhibition features 100 artists from the Missoula area and beyond in both silent and live auctions. This year's theme, Artists in the Spotlight, highlights the important role artists play in the community.

For the first time this year, the artworks will be divided equally between the live and silent auctions. The silent auction has been expanded in price range to increase bidding opportunities for all budgets. The live auction is smaller than past years to create more competition and excitement.

[See Art Auctions on page 13](#)

Artist Gathering draws artists from across state

By Cindy Kittredge

Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist

Seventy-two of the Montana Arts Council's MAP

(Montana Artrepreneur Program) artists came together Nov. 1-4 in Hamilton for the 2013 Artist Gathering. At this capstone event for the MAP program, these artists sold an estimated \$30,000 in artwork to the public, networked with each other, and learned more about the business of art from professionals in the field, including New York City's Creative Capital and Maryland's Performance Concepts.

On Friday, Nov. 1, the artists opened the Artist Gathering Show and Sale at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds Event Center for a sneak preview to guests from ARTrageous, the local community-wide celebration of the arts.

This preview was followed on Saturday morning with a breakfast, designed to introduce artists and their work to galleries, architects, interior designers. The Gathering Show and Sale was then opened to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public had the opportunity to purchase art and to interact with artists, learning more about the creative process and the work.

Tamar Stanley, executive director of the Ravalli County Museum, which co-sponsored ARTrageous with the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, wrote to the participating artists, "The execution, accomplishments, and overall effect of this weekend's event were inspiring.

Your presentations, interaction, enthusiasm, and sense of commitment to the process ... showed throughout the weekend and played to an eager audience ... You imbued the vision of MAC and the MAP program."

The Gathering Show and Sale showcased a rich and diverse range of work including hand-woven tapestries and heirloom quality cloth, art quilts, hand-thrown porcelain and stoneware pottery clay sculptures, art glass, photography, watercolor, acrylic, and oil paintings, jewelry in silver, brass, and stone, lamp-worked beads, fine wood boxes, hand-painted silk and fine wood furniture. Culinary specialties were also on display, as well as letterpress and screen-printed gifts, collagraph and intaglio prints, painted and reclaimed furniture, magazine collage, leather home accents and

jewelry, wood carvings and engravings, and mixed media and mural art.

A Sunday night dinner featured keynote speaker Kate Peterson, president and CEO of Performance Concepts. Her presentation, titled "Trending Up: How to Make the Most of Today's Must-Know Consumer Trends," looked at why some brands succeed while others fail. She emphasized trends among luxury consumers and that there are more opportunities than ever for creative entrepreneurs to meet the needs of those consumers.

[See MAP Gathering on page 6](#)



Coila Evans, Roundup MAP artist, puts finishing touches on her booth during Artists Gathering in Hamilton.

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center New theater offers inaugural performing arts series

The new Warren Miller Performing Arts Center (WMPAC), located in Big Sky's Gallatin Canyon, opened its doors Dec. 28 to James Sewell Ballet – the first in an exciting line-up of national and international acts.

The 280-seat venue will host 10 acclaimed acts from December through April, including the Chicago-based Second City comedy improv group, the Portland Cello Project, the Brubeck Brothers Quartet, and the Moth Mainstage.

With a wide range of entertainment, the WMPAC is staking out territory as a new cultural hub in the Rockies, and a much-needed community base for arts education.

The \$1.94 million center is located at Big Sky's Ophir School campus, and is a collaborative initiative of the Big Sky School District no. 72, the Friends of Big Sky Education (FOBSE) and the Big Sky community.

The center's namesake, ski-movie icon Warren Miller, and his wife, Laurie, spend half of their time in Big Sky and were among many contributors to the project. The Arts Center was named in his honor in part due to Miller's involvement in the community, and also because his legacy demonstrates that skiing and culture can go hand in hand.



The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center opened last spring at Big Sky's Ophir School.

Miller praises the new center, completed in March 2013, as "the best theatre I've ever stood on the stage of, and I've been in thousands of them, all over the world." He goes on to predict, "As soon as the word gets out that this facility is that, every act, actor and musician in the world is going to want to book a night here."

Artistic Director John Zirkle has been involved with the center since Janu-

ary 2012, and brings a long history of involvement in the arts. He was part of the center's capital campaign "as one member of a very large team of passionate volunteers and tireless patrons of the arts." He has also helped guide the development and long-term vision of the project.

Zirkle moved to Big Sky in 2009 and has been spearheading local performing arts projects ever since. Founder and director of the Big Sky Community Chorus, the Big Sky Community Theatre, and Big Sky's only youth theatrical company, Big Sky Broadway, he is passionate about the development of community through grassroots arts initiatives.

[See Warren Miller PAC on page 6](#)